

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 IGA-02 L-03 ABF-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20

DRC-01 /082 W

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P 051244Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO DA WASHDC/DASA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7584

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3223

DA FOR DUSA KOREN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU OTRA

SUBJ: STATUS OF KUWAIT MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. AS YOU DOUBTLESS AWARE, KUWAIT PROGRAM HAS NOT YET GOTTEN OFF THE GROUND AND WHILE THERE IS STILL MOTION, IT DOES NOT LOOK AS IF GOK WILL MAKE ANY DEFINITIVE DECISIONS BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL. THUS IT WILL PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR YOU TO DISCUSS MILITARY SUPPORT WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE, SHAIKH SAAD AND CALL ON HIM WILL THEREFORE BE IN NATURE OF COURTESY CALL.

2. ON OTHER HAND, COL. MURHPHREE, I AND OTHER EMBOFFS WILL WELCOME IN-HOUSE DISCUSSION WITH YOU ON ALL ASPECTS PROPOSED PROGRAM, AND I HOPE THIS WILL BE USEFUL TO YOU.

3. FOR BACKGROUND I SHOULD PERHAPS ADD THAT ACTIVITY IN THE MILITARY FIELD HERE HAS BEEN GREATLY SLOWED BY FACT OF LONG HOT SUMMER AND MANY VACATIONS OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS, SUCH AS CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL MUBARAK, WHO HAS BEEN AWAY MORE THAN A MONTH. ALTHOUGH KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER PROBLEM CONTINUES AS BEFORE, IT DOES SO WITHOUT ANY NOTICEABLE KUWAITI FEELING OF TENSION OR URGENCY FOR MILITARY PROCUREMENT, EVEN AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER'S

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RECENT UNSUCCESSFUL VISIT TO BAGHDAD -- IN CONTRADISTINCTION TO

STRONG LOCAL FEELING JUST AFTER IRAQI INCURSION EARLIER THIS YEAR.
MOREOVER, AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE IN TIME, WHEN ARABS ARE CONSULTING ON HOW TO DEAL WITH AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND UN, GOK UNDOUBTEDLY SOMEWHAT MORE SENSITIVE ON WHOLE QUESTION OF US ARMS.
STOLTZFUS

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